

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF PLATTSBURGH, NEW YORK**

January 28, 2016

5:30 P.M.

MINUTES

Present: Mayor James Calnon, Councilors Mike Kelly (W2), Dale Dowdle (W3), Paul O’Connell (W4), Becky Kasper (W5), Joshua Kretser (W6)

Absent: Councilor **Rachelle Armstrong (W1)**

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the regular meeting of the Common Council held on January 14, 2016 and a Special Meeting held on January 21, 2016 are approved and placed on file among the public records of the City Clerk’s Office.

By Councilor Kasper; Seconded by Councilor Kretser
Roll call: Councilors Kelly, Dowdle, O’Connell, Kasper, Kretser
(All voted in the affirmative)

2. PAYROLLS OF VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS:

RESOLVED: That the payrolls of the various Departments of the City of Plattsburgh for the week ending January 20, 2016 in the amount of **\$ 506,831.41** and January 27, 2016 in the amount of **\$ 185,216.72** are authorized and allowed and the Mayor and the City Clerk are hereby empowered and directed to sign warrants drawn on the City Chamberlain for the payment thereof.

By Councilor Kelly; Seconded by Councilor Dowdle
Roll call: Councilors Kelly, Dowdle, O’Connell, Kasper, Kretser
(All voted in the affirmative)

3. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICES & COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Report of Fire and Ambulance Responses for the weeks of January 14 - 27, 2016
- Report from the Building Inspector’s office January 26, 2016
- Report of Public Hearing held by the Zoning Board of Appeals on January 19, 2016
- Report from the Parking Violations Bureau for December 2015

RESOLVED: That the reports as listed are hereby ordered received and placed on file among the public records of the City Clerk’s Office.

By Councilor O’Connell; Seconded by Councilor Kretser
Roll call: Councilors Kelly, Dowdle, O’Connell, Kasper, Kretser

(All voted in the affirmative)

4. CORRESPONDENCE OR RECOMMENDATIONS FROM BOARDS: None

5. AUDIT OF CLAIMS:

RESOLVED: That the bills Audited by the Common Council for the week ending January 22, 2016 in the amount of \$ 779,002.69 and January 29, 2016 in the amount of \$ 1,541,359.07 are authorized and allowed and the Mayor and City Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to sign warrants drawn on the City Chamberlain for the payment thereof.

By Councilor Kelly; Seconded by Councilor Dowdle
Roll call: Councilors Kelly, Dowdle, O’Connell, Kasper, Kretser

(All voted in the affirmative)

6. PERSONS ADDRESSING COUNCIL:

Patty Hackett spoke about the Animal Control officer position being eliminated asked for it to be reinstated. Spoke to Jim Burgess with no catching of the animals or getting rid of them by July there will be 400 skunks in the City of Plattsburgh. Thinks it is beneficial to the City of Plattsburgh to continue with the Animal Control Officer. Jim Burgess told her about a way to solve problem is saturating an area he knows where the skunk dens.

Laurie Schudde spoke about the Animal Control officer position being eliminated asked for it to be reinstated. Asked Council to consider Jim Burgess’ trap saturation plan which would cost \$10,000.

Speaker did not identify herself asked Council to have Public Forum to set priorities, the budget and future spending. Spoke about Snow Removal law and public announcement. Policies made available to public.

Peter [last name not audible] stated they have owned the property at 20 and 22 Brinkerhoff for about a year. Our tenants are Booth Insurance and the Bagel Pit. Said they have renovated the building, added an awning to enhance sidewalk dining. They heard that there may be some new guidelines and sidewalk usage and it may change and he is concerned of what those guidelines might be and how it would restrict that and where could they get that information. Inquired about 460 Margaret Street and how it might be developed.

Mayor Calnon stated not in this meeting context. He suggested he speak to the Building Inspector.

Peter [last name not audible] and will the guidelines for sidewalk usage be addressed at a future City Council meeting?

Mayor Calnon said yes.

7. OTHER ITEMS:

A. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves the City Chamberlain to create capital project H7020.18 South Platt St. Facilities Upgrades for 40,000 to provide for the cost of site facilities rehabilitation and replacement work.

By Councilor Kelly; Seconded by Councilor O’Connell

Discussion: Yes

Roll call: Councilors Kelly, Dowdle, O’Connell, Kasper, Kretser
(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

B. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves MLD to write-off unpaid final bills from October 1, 2014 to October 31, 2014 in the total amount of \$2,342.49. The percentage of write-offs for this period is .23%.

By Councilor Kretser; Seconded by Councilor Kelly

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Kelly, Dowdle, O’Connell, Kasper, Kretser
(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

C. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves a leave of absence for Garrett Mastic from his position as Automobile Mechanic in Public Works effective February 1, 2016 until January 31, 2017 to take a position of Line Helper in the Municipal Lighting Department.

By Councilor Kasper; Seconded by Councilor Dowdle

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Kelly, Dowdle, O’Connell, Kasper, Kretser
(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

Mayor removed item D from agenda because it needs to be reviewed by Corporation Counsel:

“D. Introduced: Local Law P-2 of 2016: To change the form of government from current Mayor-Council format to City Manager format as detailed in the Charter Commission final report. This law, after adoption, will be placed on a referendum ballot for approval by the people of the City of Plattsburgh.”

E. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves Dana Isabella of Champlain Valley Family Center to hold the 3rd Annual 5kFWD at the Plattsburgh City Beach on Saturday June 25 at 9am.

By Councilor Kretser; Seconded by Councilor Dowdle
Discussion: Yes
Roll call: Councilors Kelly, Dowdle, O’Connell, Kasper, Kretser
(All voted in the affirmative)
ACTION TAKEN: Adopted
Follow up Action: None

8. TRAVEL REQUEST:

A. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves Building Inspector Joseph McMahon, Housing Inspectors Kenneth Primard, Claude Bouchard and Kyle Burdo to attend the “21st Annual Lake Placid Conference First Preventer Institute” in Lake Placid, NY from February 29 – March 3, 2016 at a cost not to exceed \$1,140. This codes education conference provides mandatory training hours to retain Code Enforcement Certification.

By Councilor Dowdle; Seconded by Councilor O’Connell
Discussion: None
Roll call: Councilors Kelly, Dowdle, O’Connell, Kasper, Kretser
(All voted in the affirmative)
ACTION TAKEN: Adopted
Follow up Action: None

B. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves two Police Department Employees to attend “2016 NY Tactical Officers Training Conference for Taser Instructor certification, Less Lethal Instructor certification and Chemical Munitions Instructor certification” from April 25 – 28, 2016 in Verona, NY. The total cost will not exceed \$1,634.48 and will be expensed out of the Asset Forfeiture fund.

By Councilor Kretser; Seconded by Councilor Kasper
Discussion: None
Roll call: Councilors Kelly, Dowdle, O’Connell, Kasper, Kretser
(All voted in the affirmative)
ACTION TAKEN: Adopted
Follow up Action: None

9. RESOLUTIONS FOR INITIAL CONSIDERATION: None

10. NEW BUSINESS:

Councilor Dowdle asked about next week’s work session on Capital Projects.

Councilor Kasper said I would like to look at the budget plan Richard sent to them. In progress and 2016/2017 projects. Just to get a clear understanding of what we are heading in to. Department Heads that have Capital Projects, Kevin and Richard should be there.

Councilor O'Connell said I wasn't here on the Work Session when it was handled to remove the Animal Control Officer. Had I been here I would have been opposed to that. I put in a resolution for a local law about feeding animals and it originated from a call about skunks. I think it is important in a city this size that we have an Animal Control Officer. I am going to pursue getting that money put back in to fund. What would happen if someone called the police about a skunk? I'm hoping with some financial gain from this insurance type of thing where we had told our department heads to work and save some more money. If we do have a surplus or some kind of extra money we talked about keeping there. I would hope we would be wise enough to spend \$25,000 to put that back in place and contract that out again.

Mayor Calnon said it would depend on the circumstances. If they find an animal that is obviously rabid they will put it down.

Councilor O'Connell said I wasn't around so I didn't get a few of those changes that were made because I wasn't around.

Councilor Dowdle said we heard tonight that there might be about an alternate plan with a figure of \$10,000 are you going to contact them to address the skunk population?

Councilor O'Connell said yeah there are a lot of things involved.

Mayor Calnon said given your intent to bring a resolution to the council we will have to check out what all of those options are, you can offer whatever resolution you want if it includes an alternate plan we have 2 weeks to figure out what that might be.

Councilor O'Connell said I hadn't intended to do a resolution yet.

Mayor Calnon said you indicated in your statement if we obtain the full savings in the retiree health care that we had planned on there might be a small amount of money available we should know that by then as well.

Councilor Kasper said the idea of a compromise and the trap saturation seems far more efficient use of funds instead of coming out 5 times a week to pick up one skunk for \$25,000 a year to spend \$10,000 on trap saturation where you're catching these large populations and therefore diminishing the possibility of reproduction. If there can be a reasonable alternative then I would be very happy to hear it.

Mayor Calnon said should have something for the agenda at the next meeting?

Councilor O'Connell said my main concern was that people know where to go if there is a problem.

Mayor Calnon said the calls still go to the police station.

Councilor Kelly said we tried really hard as we prepared the budget this year to not cut services. That was one of the things that sort of slipped through the cracks as we tried desperately in the eleventh hour to come in under the tax cap. I too would be very much in favor of bringing that service back if at all possible and if the financial picture turns out to be rosier then we thought. February 1st I have a meeting with Kimberly Cummings and the Reality Check program from Plattsburgh High School. I think they want to talk about teens and smoking. I'm looking forward to it and I will share anything I've learned there. Councilor Dowdle will be attending too.

11. CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Laurie Schudde thanked the Council for reconsidering bringing back the Animal Control officer.

Motion to Adjourn by Councilor O'Connell; Seconded by Councilor Kasper
Roll call Councilors Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper, Kretser
(All voted in the affirmative)

MEETING ADJOURNED: 6:01 pm